

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A combination comprising a bed of particulate copper-containing catalyst and a guard bed of a particulate composition containing a) at least one lead compound, other than lead oxide, that reacts with hydrogen chloride and b) a support therefor.
2. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the lead compound does not undergo significant decomposition when heated for two hours at 300°C or reduction to elemental lead when treated with a hydrogen/ carbon monoxide mixture at 225°C.
3. (Original) A combination according to claim 2 wherein the lead compound is lead nitrate.
4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the copper-containing catalyst also contains zinc oxide and at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of alumina and chromia.
5. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 4 wherein the catalyst further comprises magnesia.
6. (Original) A combination according to claim 4 wherein the catalyst further comprises a rare earth oxide.
7. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the particles of the guard bed have maximum and minimum dimensions in the range 1.5 to 20 mm.
8. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of alumina, chromia, zirconia and titania.

9. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the guard bed particles contain at least 2% by weight of lead.

10. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the guard bed particles are made by impregnating preformed shaped particles of the support with a solution of lead salt, followed by heating to remove the water.

11. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the guard bed particle are made by precipitating the lead compound in the presence of the support particles followed by heating and forming the precipitated compounds into shaped particles.

12. (Original) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the guard bed particle are made by co-precipitating lead and to support precursor compounds and thereafter forming the precipitated compounds into shaped particles.

13-17. (Cancelled)